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Bill would modernize guidelines for moving county seat

LANSING – A bill introduced in the Michigan Senate today would give county voters a say over whether their county seat is moved, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of the bill.

Senate Bill 1122 would modernize the legal guidelines for moving a county seat. The bill was introduced after county commissioners in Leelanau County began studying options to establish a new government center in the county.

The current law, which dates back to the 1850s, requires county commissioners to allow the public to vote on any proposal to move their county seat at the “annual meeting of township residents.” The state hasn’t required annual township meetings since 1963.

“When the law was changed in 1963, it inadvertently left counties without guidelines for moving their seat of government,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “By modernizing this process, we are ensuring that the people of Leelanau County get a say in the proposed relocation of their county seat.”

The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs.

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